

**Alabama Child Death Review System
State Team Meeting Minutes
August 14, 2006**

State Team Members

Present:

Gerone Grant
Jim Grigg
James Hayes
Tara Johnson
Steve Lafreniere
Don Williamson (Proxy – Tom Miller)
Mike O’Dell
J. R. Sample
Shirley Scanlan
Corinne Stern
Linda Tilly
Bobby Timmons
Beth Twitty

Absent:

Jean Brown
Hoyt Childs, Jr.
Frank DeGraffenried
Gerald Dial
Bill English
Steve Giddens
Tara Kyser
Cheryl Outland
Randy Thomas
Olga White
Jay Wolf
Robert Brissie
Larry Means
Taylor Noggle
Mike Millican

Guests/Staff Present:

Keisha Adams
Michelle Akins
Teresa Covington
Johnny Grant
Bob Hinds
Jessica Jackson
Bob Johnston
Gordon Jones
Tom Miller
Tarina Moores
Arleymah Raheem
Dianne Sims
Pat West

Call to Order

On August 14, 2006 at 9:00 AM at the Perdido Beach Resort in Orange Beach, Alabama, the Alabama Child Death Review System (ACDRS) State Team meeting was called to order. The State Team met as a part of the ACDRS Local Team Training Conference. Mr. Bob Hinds called the meeting to order and introduced Dr. Tom Miller who welcomed new members and guests.

New Members and Guests

Present for their first meeting were new members: Dr. Corrine Stern, ADFS representative; Beth Holloway Twitty, Governor Appointee; Linda Tilly, ADPH representative.

Invited guests in attendance were: Keisha Adams, South Carolina Child Death Review/Southeast Regional Coalition; Michelle Akins, Florida Child Death Review/Southeast Regional Coalition; Arleymah Raheem, Georgia Child Fatality Review/Southeast Regional Coalition; Jessica Jackson, AL Dept. of Child Abuse/Neglect/Children’s Trust Fund.

Guest Speakers

Teri Covington, Director, National Center for Child Death Review, spoke to the State Team about the status of Child Death Review (CDR) across the country. She reported that although much has been done, there is still much left to be done to protect our children. She further reported that Idaho has now rejoined the partnership of states that have CDR, making the roll call unanimous. All 50 states now have a CDR in one fashion or another!

Pat West, Multi-State CDR Consultant, spoke to the State Team about moving from data collection to actually taking action. She gave a brief overview of the talk on the same subject that she would deliver to the Local Team Conference that same afternoon. Her message was for our entire Team to take positive meaningful steps to use the information we collect...or why bother?

Unfinished Business:

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes for the February 2006 and May 2006 meetings could not be approved because there was not a quorum present.

State Team Membership Update

After introducing the new State Team members who were in attendance for the first time, Mr. Hinds announced that all positions, except one, the AL Academy of Family Physicians representative, have been filled. He announced that three additional Governor appointees will have completed their terms in November 2006. The Governor will be asked to fill those positions as soon as possible.

Status of Cases Report/Comparison

Mr. Hinds reported that as of this month the ACDRS has achieved the unheard of goal of 100% Team formation for the entire State. This means that every Judicial Circuit in Alabama has formed a CDR Team and that every child in our State is now represented by a Local Team. Few if any other state can claim such a record. And further he reported that we were just 49 cases away from reviewing 100% of the cases eligible for review for our next annual report year (2004). Our Local Teams reviewed 89% of all eligible cases in CY 2003, which stands as our all-time record. But we are on the threshold of achieving something very special...100% participation and 100% review rate. No other state can match that record! We are working hard to achieve this goal.

New Business:

Status of the CY 2003 CDR Annual Report

Mr. Hinds reported that the CY 2003 CDR Annual Report has been published on the web site and is available for the public to see. Hard copies of the report are expected before the end of the month and will be mailed to all State and Local Team members as well as the Alabama Legislature, our out of state counterparts and to the public (by request). A Press Release announcing the publication will go out immediately after the conference. Mr. Hinds believes this is our best report yet and is particularly proud of the articles provided by several of our members.

Booster Seat Advocacy Program

The ACDRS is in the process of forming a partnership with the Southeast Regional Child Safety Institute, VOICES for Alabama's Children, the ADPH Injury Prevention Division and possibly other private businesses/organizations to implement a Booster Seat Advocacy Program. The purpose of the program will be to highlight the new Child Safety Restraint Law and provide training on how to properly use a required booster seat. The new Alabama law is a step in the right direction but it is essentially inadequate protection for our children. This new partnership is an effort to expand the message provided in the new law.

ATV Safety Program

Mr. Hinds announced that our new ATV Safety brochures are now being displayed in public libraries, hospitals, school counseling offices and pediatrician offices around the State. In fact, Children's Hospital in Birmingham requested our entire 50,000 copy supply of the brochures for use in their hospital alone. Additional printing is going to be required to cover the tremendous demand for our brochures.

Infant Sleep Environment

A Press Release has been issued by the ADPH to accompany a new study also just released by ADPH Vital Statistics. The subject for both is the risks/hazards associated with the infant sleep environment. The ACDRS has long been aware of these hazards as evidenced by our "Safety for Sleeping Babies" brochures, "Back to Sleep" posters and our frequent messages in print on the subject. The Press release and study agree with the Academy of Pediatric's new recommendations regarding the dangers of "bed-sharing"...an issue ACDRS has championed for some time. We welcome the publication of these supporting documents!

Open Discussion:

No new topics were proposed or discussed during this period.

Executive Session:

Without objection the Team agreed to move to Executive Session. Upon completing discussions on several topics the team agreed to return to Open Session.

Next Meeting Scheduled

Our next regularly scheduled ACDRS State Team meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 16, 2006. Location and time TBD.

Adjournment

There being no further items on the agenda and no further discussion requested, without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A. M.

RH: tm

Enclosures (2)

1. CY 2003 CDR Annual Report
2. ACDRS Local Team Training Conference Evaluations-Summary